SC NAACP v. Alexander,
D.S.C. Case No. 3:21-cv-03302-MGL-TJH-RMG

EXHIBIT 7

	Page 1
	Page 1
1	IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
	FOR THE DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA
2	COLUMBIA DIVISION
3	CASE NO. 3:21-CV-03302-MBS-TJH-RMG
3	THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE CONFERENCE OF
4	THE NAACP, AND TAIWAN SCOTT, ON BEHALF
-	OF HIMSELF AND ALL OTHER SIMILARLY
5	SITUATED PERSONS,
6	Plaintiffs,
7	vs.
8	THOMAS C. ALEXANDER, HENRY D. MCMASTER,
_	IN HIS OFFICIAL CAPACITY AS GOVERNOR OF
9	SOUTH CAROLINA; HARVEY PEELER, IN HIS
1.0	OFFICIAL CAPACITY AS PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE; LUKE A. RANKIN, IN HIS OFFICIAL
10	CAPACITY AS CHAIRMAN OF THE SENATE
11	JUDICIARY COMMITTEE; JAMES H. LUCAS, IN
	HIS OFFICIAL CAPACITY AS SPEAKER OF THE
12	HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES; CHRIS MURPHY,
	IN HIS OFFICIAL CAPACITY AS CHAIRMAN OF
13	THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES JUDICIARY
	COMMITTEE; WALLACE H. JORDAN, IN HIS
14	OFFICIAL CAPACITY AS CHAIRMAN OF THE
1 -	HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ELECTIONS LAW
15	SUBCOMMITTEE; HOWARD KNABB, IN HIS OFFICIAL CAPACITY AS INTERIM EXECUTIVE
16	DIRECTOR OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE
- 0	ELECTION COMMISSION; JOHN WELLS, JOANNE
17	DAY, CLIFFORD J. ELDER, LINDA MCCALL,
	AND SCOTT MOSELEY, IN THEIR OFFICIAL
18	CAPACITIES AS MEMBERS OF THE SOUTH
	CAROLINA STATE ELECTION COMMISSION,
19	
	Defendants.
20	DEDOCIMION OF ANDREW MURODODE FIRETON
21	DEPOSITION OF: ANDREW THEODORE FIFFICK
22	(Appearing via VTC)
	DATE: July 21, 2022
23	
	TIME: 10:10 a.m.
24	
25	

everyone, but it was something that was on the back end so that outside counsel could check for. And again, I'm not the expert here. My impression is that on the back end, outside counsel might want to look at what I think is called the Section 2 claim where you might need to use racial data. But it's my understanding there is no Section 2 claim and I don't recall outside counsel ever, you know, needing to use that data. But that data was available to everybody, and anybody who asked for it, that sort of data was to go to them for sure.

- Q. And when you refer to outside counsel having looked at it, are you referring to -- you mentioned Mr. Terreni, you mentioned Mr. Gore, and you mentioned Mr. Tyson. Is that who you're referring to?
- A. I don't recall Mr. Tyson doing a whole lot of review. It was kind of a hierarchal thing. You know, Charlie was more involved because he's here. You know, we would bounce it off of Charlie and then Charlie would send it on to John Gore.

And there really were very few maps so it wasn't a whole lot of review. I don't think we drew more than 20 maps that outside counsel saw, if that, probably less than that. Probably less than

five or six maps actually went to outside counsel that we drew. But the buck really stopped with John Gore. It would have been a John Gore question. Hey, John, does this pass the legal test that you're aware of with your 20 something years of experience with redistricting.

- Q. So to some understanding, there may have been 20 congressional maps drawn, but 6 of them -- around 6 of them, you say, filtered up to John Gore who gave the final approval about whether or not what?
- A. It's been a minute since this happened, but my recollection is that's a ballpark. Yeah, I'd say maybe two dozen maps and maybe, you know, five or six sent up the food chain. And I guess that perhaps maybe if you expanded to include, for example, your map -- your two maps, I think you sent us. I think we sent those to John Gore as well, but I don't remember him weighing in on them, you know, in the same way he might have with us. So maybe if you included outside folks' maps, maybe it is more than five or six, but again I don't specifically recall exactly. I mean, ultimately I think there were two maps that were sort of numbered wrong. I think that would have been

Senator Harpootlian's and Senator Campsen's.

And then there were other maps that members -- and I believe, if you recall, I even left you a voicemail about Senator Hutto wanting to present your all's maps, you know, on your all's behalf on the floor. I don't recall if we had John Gore look at those or not. But those would be the three or four extra maps, you know, outside submitted maps that would have gone up the food chain.

- Q. And so the six that you're talking about or ballpark six that you're talking about that more than likely went to Mr. Gore, those were all maps drawn by the legislature not including the public?
- A. I don't remember if we sent him the public maps or not. I do remember that there was no request for those maps to be looked at until at the very earliest would have been those couple days before the bill was on the floor the morning that I left a voice mail for you to say, hey, you know, if y'all want to submit something about your maps, do that. I don't recall that there was any sort of rigorous analysis on John Gore's part with those maps, but maybe there was. I could be mistaken.

Page 16 And the bill on the floor, you would be Q. talking about mid-January or so? I think it would have been 19th, 20th, Α. 22nd, somewhere in that timeframe, yes, ma'am. Were you the person who was responsible 0. for sending those maps to Mr. Gore? It would have been a shared thing. would have been -- you know, it could have been from Breeden. It could have been from Will. mean, it could have been from me. It probably was from Will because all that stuff was on his laptop so I would imagine it was Will. But one of us could have hit send instead of him. Most of the time -- that was his laptop. He made sure that was his stuff. He was the guy that drew the maps so I would say my best recollection right now is that Will would have sent the maps to Gore. Q. And you mentioned Breeden. Is that Breeden John? Α. Yes, ma'am. Ο. And you mentioned Will. That's Will Roberts? Yes, ma'am. Α. Q. And who was the third person you

mentioned?

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Page 18 1 the substance of the communication that may have 2 been communicated back. I'm just interested in how 3 it was communicated back and specifically by email, by phone, by text, a combination thereof? 4 5 It was phone. It was phone. 6 might be some emails out there. If there are, 7 y'all have got them. I don't think so. 8 easier for him to just look at the map and talk to 9 us and say thumbs up, thumbs down. And, you know, 10 he said thumbs up on the one busting the task. 11 BY MS. ADEN: 12 How many of those meetings do you think Q. 13 you had? 14 Meetings with who? Α. 15 Q. Mr. Gore by phone. 16 Phone calls with Mr. Gore about 17 congressional maps? 18 Q. Yes. 19 Maybe half a dozen. And they were all Α. 20 here's a map, do you think it's okay? 21 So you mentioned about six maps went to 22 Mr. Gore so you think approximately six calls or do 23 you think there were more calls about --24 Α. I don't think there were more calls --25 I don't think there were more calls than maps.

mean, these maps were -- everything about these maps was pretty easy to see down in the Charleston area so it wasn't something that was difficult. So I would say about the same number of calls as maps. And again, I could be wrong about the number of maps, but ballparking it, that's kind of where I get the number.

- Q. Can you tell me who else was on those calls besides when you were on them?
- A. Those calls would have been made with us sitting in Luke Rankin's office with a map on the wall where Charlie Terreni -- at the very least, Charlie Terreni, myself, Will Roberts, and Breeden John would have been in there.

It's possible here and there that Paula Benson could have been in there. It's possible here and there that Maura Baker could have been in there. But those are the people that could have been in those calls.

I don't recall exactly who was there.

But at a minimum, I'm sure it would be at the very least me, Charlie Terreni, and Will Roberts because, like I said, Will always was who was running the laptop, Charlie was my initial outside counsel, and I was there.

him or vice versa or were you equal colleagues? How would you define that working relationship?

- A. I would call us equal colleagues in terms of the administrative situation, but I would say that, you know, having known him and knowing that he's been a lawyer for 20 years longer than me, I defer to him on anything because I trust him. He's a smart guy. I mean, technically speaking, if you look at a command chain, you know, I'm chief of staff. We hired Charlie, but, you know, the practical matter this is his third redistricting and my first. Colleagues with great deference to him I would say.
- Q. And in terms of hierarchy, is it fair to say the decision of Mr. Gore trumped the decision of both you and Mr. Terreni with respect to congressional mapping?
- A. If it came down to it, yes, but I don't recall a situation where Charlie Terreni disagreed with John Gore. So as a practical matter, yes, we would have gone up the food chain to the DC lawyers, but in reality, I don't remember that ever happening.
- Q. And how would you describe your working relationship with Mr. Breeden? Did he report to

Page 58 1 you assisted in crafting legislation for the House? 2 Α. For the House, no. 3 For the Senate? 0. Well, I mean, yeah. I take that back. 4 Α. 5 Yeah, because I work for the House not the 6 capacity with the Senate I've not worked -- well, I 7 Thinking, yeah, we do work on stuff quess, yeah. 8 together. So, yeah. That incident, yes. 9 Ο. And that's like the nuts and bolts of 10 coming up with a bill? 11 Α. Correct. 12 Okay. And have you assisted in your Q. 13 current or past positions with shepherding 14 legislation through the legislative process? 15 Α. Yes. And by shepherding, I'm not sure 16 what you mean there, but I think yes. The answer 17 is yes. 18 What is your role -- describe for me Q. 19 what you believe to have been your role in 20 developing congressional maps this cycle. 21 Meeting with members, having them tell 22 me, Will Roberts, Charlie Terreni, Breeden John, 23 Maura Baker to a lesser extent, Paula how they 24 thought the maps should be drawn and watching Will 25 Roberts draw it and then submitting it, you know,

Page 59 1 to Charlie Terreni and John Gore for them to tell 2 us whether or not that they were kosher. And I 3 think one of the things I made a point on my personal level is making sure that the door was 4 5 open to anyone who needed to come to me -- in terms 6 of the members, if any member wanted to come in and 7 talk to us, I wanted to make sure nobody was left 8 out. 9 Ο. Did you have ideas for how the 10 congressional map should look? 11 Not really no, I didn't. I mean, we 12 deferred to the members on that. That's above my 13 pay grade. 14 Deferred to members and deferred to Ο. 15 Mr. Gore? 16 Deferred to members and then, I mean, I wouldn't say I deferred to Mr. Gore in how to draw 17 18 the map. We did defer to Mr. Gore and Mr. Terreni 19 on whether or not that they were legally sound maps 20 for sure. 21 What did you understand would be a 22 legally sound map? 23 I mean, there's lots of different --24 it's more of what wouldn't have been sound from my

understanding. This is my first rodeo for

Page 107 1 adopted from prior redistricting, the 2002 opinion 2 of the three-judge court in Colleton County v. 3 McConnell, the 2012 opinion of the three-judge court in Backus v. South Carolina, other court 4 5 decisions, and input received in public hearings 6 across the State. 7 Let me ask you have you read the Q. 8 decisions in the Colleton County Council in the 9 Backus case that are cited here? 10 It's been a long time but, yes. Α. 11 A long time meaning when approximately? 0. 12 Α. It would have been back in August, 13 July, September, somewhere in there. 14 Of 2021? Ο. 15 Α. Yeah. Yeah. That's right. 16 Do you know what other court decisions Ο. 17 are being referred to in that last clause? 18 Α. I don't. 19 And the input received in public Q. 20 hearings across the state, what is that referring 21 to? 22 Α. The aggregated public testimony that 23 they had in those roads shows. 24 Q. So it's your position -- is Ms. Benson 25 the only person responsible for developing these

Page 108 1 quidelines or did you have some role in that? 2 No, I had no role in developing them. 3 We did run these up the food chain just like anything else through Charlie Terreni and John 4 5 Gore. 6 Ο. You said Charlie Terreni and John Gore 7 also reviewed these? Α. 8 Yes, ma'am, I'm sure they did. I don't 9 recall the specific instance of them reviewing it, 10 but I'm sure they looked it over. 11 Ο. And what was their role in reviewing 12 them? 13 Α. To sign off on them as being reasonable 14 or accurate and --15 Q. Legally sound? 16 Legally sound. That's a good way to 17 put it. 18 Outside of the things listed in this Q. 19 paragraph, were there any other sources consulted 20 to develop these guidelines? 21 And I'm sure in the review of these 22 guidelines by Charlie Terreni, Paula Benson, and 23 John Gore, I'm not sure what other resources they

used, but I think their collective experience was

part of it. It's not necessarily mentioned there,

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us presenting the information and the maps to our outside experts who then decided whether or not they passed federal common law.

- Q. Are you aware of whether race data was loaded into the computer that y'all shared in the map room?
 - A. Oh, yeah. It was, yeah, for sure.
- Q. Was it on a screen projected on the wall at any time as you were developing maps?
- A. I was not developing maps, but as members came in and wanted to talk about maps, yes, members came in and asked about those numbers.
- Q. For the maps that were transmitted to Mr. Terreni and Mr. Gore, did they include associated data with them?
- A. I'm sure they did. I'm sure Charlie
 Terreni saw the associated data when he was in the
 room and I'm sure Will would bring set statistics
 to John Gore when they sent any map to us.
- Q. And are you aware of whether race data was one of the categories of data that was part of that?
 - A. I believe it was, yeah.
- Q. What other ways was race considered as maps were developed, congressional maps were

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Page 247 1 just provide the legal guidance that you've been 2 talking about since the beginning of the day? 3 MR. TYSON: Asked and answered. 4 BY MS. ADEN: 5 Did he draw lines? I know he was --0. 6 did he draw lines? 7 He wasn't physically on the computer. 8 Will was always on the computer. 9 Ο. Was he sitting next to Mr. Roberts 10 directing him about where lines might go? 11 Α. Yeah. I mean, Will was drawing these 12 things and, you know, if somebody noticed that, 13 hey, you might want to follow that river because 14 it's a geographic boundary or something, I don't 15 remember, you know. But, I mean, yeah, he would 16 have been commenting about the map. I wouldn't say 17 he drew it though. 18 Did you provide that type of Q. 19 directions, you know, follow the river? Did you 20 provide that type of guidance to Mr. Roberts? 21 We all kind of commented on it all 22 together. I mean, it was sort of an aggregate of 23 people discussing. And then we got the map

together, and I think we sent it to John Gore, and

then we gave it to the subcommittee, and then they

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did what they wanted to do with it from there.

- Q. Did any subcommittee members have involvement in the development of that initial staff map?
- A. I think we may have spoken to some of them. I don't recall. It would have been broad strokes. You know, it would have been like -- it wouldn't have been -- I don't believe they sat in the map room like they did subsequently. I could be wrong. I may be mistaken, but I don't recall that.
- Q. And those conversations with any subcommittee members would have happened informally, not because they came together in a meeting of the subcommittee?
- A. That's right. It would have been informally.
- Q. And were there any involvement from House staff members in the development of this initial Staff Plan?
- A. General trend setting, ma'am, because they gave me a separate thing, a separate one sheet paper map that's similar.
- Q. Outside of the people that you identify, Mr. Roberts, Mr. Terreni, yourself, and

Page 250 1 on different testimony and different criteria in 2 the maps. 3 What data did you rely on to develop the initial Staff Plan? 4 5 Α. Census data. I don't remember the 6 extent to which we relied on political data, but I 7 assume we did because they wanted the least change 8 map. I'm almost positive we at some point had 9 instruction from somebody, maybe Senator Campsen, 10 to make sure that Congressional District 1 retained 11 its political numbers. I can't recall for sure. 12 How many meetings were held to develop Q. 13 this initial plan? 14 I don't remember. Α. 15 Q. More than one? 16 Oh, yeah. I'm sure. 17 How many versions of the initial Staff Q. Plan became the one that was introduced on the 18 19 23rd? 20 I don't recall. Α. 21 Were the guidelines consulted during 22 development of the initial Staff Plan? 23 Α. Yes. 24 Q. And who assessed whether the guidelines had been followed in the development of this 25

initial Staff Plan?

A. I think in the initial phase, it would have been, you know -- Charlie would have been the main word in the room whether or not we were following the guidelines appropriately. Paula was in the room; I was in the room; will was in the room; Breeden was in the room. I don't know that any one of us, you know, assumed the primary enforcer of guidelines, but clearly Charlie's experience and Will's experience and Paula's experience, they had, you know, more experience. So they had more experience, I suppose.

And then I do believe we sent it to

Gore before we published it as the Staff Plan. I'm

almost positive we did.

- Q. I probably will not go through all the criteria, but without doing that, is it your position that multiple people assessed whether the one person, one vote had been complied with with the initial Staff Plan or was there one person?
- A. With that with one person, one vote, I would say that was just Will with his computer because, I mean, he could see it. He could get it down to one person, one, you know, deviation. That wasn't a judgment call really, that was just a

Page 254 1 Objection; asked and MR. TYSON: 2 answered numerous times. 3 THE WITNESS: No. Not to my knowledge, 4 no. 5 BY MS. ADEN: 6 Ο. Who would have been responsible for 7 making the assessment that the initial Staff Plan 8 was not a racial gerrymander? 9 We would have relied upon Charlie 10 Terreni and John Gore. What about whether the districts were 11 0. 12 contiquous? Who would have made that assessment in 13 the initial Staff Plan? 14 It would have probably been -- Will 15 drew the map so he could see whether things were 16 produced or not. So we all looked at the map, but 17 he was actually drawing a map so that's pretty much 18 a no brainer to draw a map that's contiguous. 19 And what about communities of interest? Q. 20 Who would have taken responsibility to ensure that 21 those kind of guideline criteria respecting 22 communities of interest was respected, reflected in 23 the initial Staff Plan? 24 I think it would have been a kind of Α. 25 everybody in the room discussion.

- Q. And what about constituent consistency? Who would have been responsible for making that determination?
- A. Again, everybody in the room discussion. And by seeing the map, you know, which didn't change a lot of lines -- just about anybody could make that initial change -- but again, this was a first staff map so I don't know that we really were cognizant of everything because we knew it was going to change. We knew the numbers were going to change it.
- Q. And who would have been responsible for determining whether the plan minimized divisions of counties, cities and towns, and/or splits of VTDs?
- A. I think those are again numbers that really would have happened but not determined.

 It's just what the numbers were.
 - Q. And district compactness?
 - A. Compactness?
 - Q. District compactness.
- A. Yeah. I mean, I guess, you know, everybody in the room kind of again looked at it knowing that we were going to have many changes.

 And all this would have gone on the back end up to Charlie Terreni and John Gore.

- Q. And do you know why the version that became Campsen 1, why that was the one selected from among the other iterations that may have led up to it?
- A. I seem to recall that's the one he wanted to offer as an amendment.
 - Q. And it was his call?
- A. I think he offered it as an amendment.

 I don't remember. That would make sense. I mean,

 it had to be offered as an amendment and so I think

 he offered it as an amendment.
- Q. And did this map also go to the -- you mentioned Mr. Terreni was in the room with Senator Campsen or on phone calls with Senator Campsen when this was developed. Was this map also sent to Mr. Gore to review?
 - A. Yes. I'm sure.
 - Q. Before it was offered?
- A. Yes. I'm sure.
 - Q. Okay. Was there a subsequent version of a map developed after it went up to Gore,
 Mr. Gore?
 - A. I don't remember. I don't remember.

 If there was, it was something that was minor tweaked or if it was anything major, it would have

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gone back up. So nothing would have ended up being passed out at a subcommittee or passed out at a full committee if it had not been, you know, across Mr. Gore's desk.

- Q. In the six or so maps that we've been talking about, we talked about at the beginning, one of those six would have included this Campsen map, Campsen 1?
- A. Of those six, I'm not sure what you mean. The ones that I previously said that I think there was about a dozen maps and then you corrected me and said it was really only seven. Is that what you're talking about?
- Q. So I thought that there were six maps or six or so maps that were sent up to Mr. Gore.

 Is that the number that you recall?
- A. I don't remember exactly. It was somewhere in that neighborhood. Six to ten maps were sent up, I think. That could be me not remembering.
- Q. Okay. Because the seven I think we were referencing were my representation I think there were about seven maps introduced by the public.
 - A. That's right. Yeah. Thank you.

Page 302 recall this specifically, but I would be pretty sure that we would have run this by John Gore as well, but I don't recall that specifically. There's a paragraph titled Adherence to Q. the Voting Rights Act on page 22529. Α. Uh-huh. Q. Do you think that Mr. Roberts was in a position to determine adherence to the Voting Rights Act? I think he's expressing his opinion, Α. but I don't know that it was determined. And is that the same with the next Q. portion entitled Avoidance of racial gerrymandering? Is that Mr. Roberts' opinion on that? I think that's an accurate way to describe it. That's his opinion. Do you agree with it? Q. Α. I haven't had a chance to read the whole thing in a long time. So as I sit here, I don't know that I have the resources to tell you in the next ten minutes. And plus, like I said, I don't recall even in realtime responding to this

Campsen wanted me to weigh in on, he did not ask me

document. So if this is something that Senator

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Page 360 1 CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER 2 3 I, Karen M. Beckman, Court Reporter and Notary Public for the State of South Carolina at 4 5 Large, do hereby certify that the foregoing 6 transcript is a true, accurate, and complete record 7 to the best of my ability. 8 I further certify that I am neither 9 related to nor counsel for any party to the cause 10 pending or interested in the events thereof. 11 Witness my hand, I have hereunto 12 affixed my official seal this 26th day of July, 13 2022, at Myrtle Beach, Horry County, 14 South Carolina. 15 16 17 18 19 20 Yarın Ernot 21 22 23 Karen M. Beckman Court Reporter 24 My Commission expires September 2, 2025 25

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Andrew Theodore Fiffick (#5327918)						
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	Page 369				
1	South Carolina State Conference Of Naacp v. Alexander, Thomas C. Et Al				
2	Andrew Theodore Fiffick (#5327918)				
3	ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF DEPONENT				
4	I, Andrew Theodore Fiffick, do hereby declare that I				
5	have read the foregoing transcript, I have made any				
6	corrections, additions, or changes I deemed necessary as				
7	noted above to be appended hereto, and that the same is				
8	a true, correct and complete transcript of the testimony				
9	given by me.				
10					
11					
12	Andrew Theodore Fiffick Date				
13	*If notary is required				
14	SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME THIS				
15	, DAY OF, 20				
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